

ENGLISH MASTERY COUNCIL

Thursday, February 4, 2016 9:00 AM

Meeting Minutes

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| Meeting Locations: | Carson City, NV (Video Conference) Department of Education Board Room 700 E. Fifth Street | <i>and</i> | Las Vegas, NV (Video Conference) Department of Education Board Room 9890 South Maryland Pkwy | <i>and</i> | Elko, NV (Video Conference) Great Basin College 1500 College Parkway |
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1. **Call to Order**

Council Chair Sharolyn Durodola called to order, from Las Vegas, the full meeting of the English Mastery Council at 9:26 A.M. on Thursday, February 4, 2016. Sharolyn welcomed everyone and introduced Sophia Masewicz as a new NDE employee. She thanked Magdalena, Karl, and Blakely for working with her and bringing her up to speed.

2. **Roll Call**

Council secretary Susan Johnson conducted a roll call. **There is a quorum (9 members)**

The following Council members were present in Carson City: Steve Canavero, Denise Dufrene, Rachel Salas, Maija Talso

Lynn Manning John was present at Great Basin College, Elko, Nevada

The following Council members were present in Las Vegas: Sharolyn Pollard-Durodola, Magdalena Martinez, Lorna James-Cervantes, Nancy Brune

Absent Council Members: Keith Boone, Edith Fernandez, Duncan Lee, Evangelyn Visser

NDE staff present: Karl Wilson and Sophia Masewicz (attending in Las Vegas), Blakely Hume, Susan Johnson, Kulwadee Axtell, Jonathan Gibson, Kevin Laxalt (in Carson City)
Deputy Attorney General Greg Ott was present in Carson City
Guest speaker in attendance in Carson City: Janeen Kelly

There was no public attendance in Elko, Las Vegas or Carson City

3. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Lead by Chair Durodola

4. **Approval of Minutes from the November 23, 2015 Meeting**

Council Chair Durodola asked if there were any questions regarding the Minutes. There were no corrections to the Minutes. Magdalena Martinez made a motion to approve the Minutes as prepared. Nancy Brune seconded the motion. Motion carried and the Minutes were approved.

5. **Public Comment #1**

There was no public comment from Carson City, Elko, or Las Vegas.

6. **District EL Policy Review Process**

Jonathan began the discussion on the tool revision and stated that Washoe County has provided an opportunity to use the tool. Karl stated that one of the EMC legislative responsibilities was to develop district EL Policy criteria and submit those recommendations to the State Board of Education. Karl explained the steps of process of approval of the Recommendations in SBE workshop and LCB is making some minor revisions to the draft regulation. Karl stated that the EMC has two rolls related to district EL Policies: Recommendations to the Board and, annually review the district policies that are submitted by the local school boards to the State and to provide feedback and recommendations to the State Board of Education and to the local school boards regarding the policies.

Karl announced an EL Policy training activity for Council members to participate in with assistance from the Washoe County School District. He explained the Council will be divided into groups, review similar information and then compare determinations. The findings will be whether the EL Policy meets or does not meet the criteria that are listed in the review form. Karl stated that it was felt that districts need to do a better job of identifying and serving English learners, and the purpose of this process is to make sure there are structures in place to promote a successful outcome.

Janeen Kelly, representing Washoe County School District, gave an overview of the process that Washoe went through in developing the EL Policy. Janeen stated that the Board Policy was approved in 2014 or 2015 by the Board of Trustees. She stated that it went through a legal process, a steering committee, and it went through several other departments, input from the State, and legal counsel.

Sophia gave an overview of review protocol and guided Council members through the resource documents. Steve expressed appreciation to Washoe County for their willingness to allow NDE and the EMC to use this tool and work the process. He stated he does not see evidence of an evaluation of relevant research.

Magdalena asked, is this the right protocol in terms of the assessment tool? She stated that policies typically do not include a deep review of the literature. There was concern and discussion of evidence of review of research in the development of the policy. Options of clarification were discussed. Jonathan stated that the Policy was developed independent of the requirements of SB405. Karl asked if, as a group, is everyone comfortable with the determination that those things were not seen in the document, as submitted. Karl stated that a recommendation to satisfy this through a separate assurance document could be submitted. EMC members reviewed the material and the teams reported their findings.

7. **EMC Recommendations Regarding Educator Training / Licensure**

Outcomes of Recommendations 3.1 and 3.2 were discussed. Sharolyn stated that in January she, Magdalena, Karl, and Blakely met with State Board member Victor Wakefield regarding the

Recommendations. Mr. Wakefield indicated that the State Board needs to be shown data in order to provide approval primarily for Recommendation 3.1. Sharolyn stated that Recommendation 3.2 will be tabled for the time being.

Magdalena expressed appreciation to Rachel Salas for testifying before the State Board and chairing the ELAD subcommittee. Recommendation 3.1 relates to the Recommendation that all teacher preparation programs in Nevada incorporate an ELAD endorsement. Magdalena stated that the overall feeling at the meeting was that they are supportive of the Recommendation but would like to be able to incorporate it into regulations. Magdalena indicated that the Board Chair felt that Recommendation 3.2 needs additional work.

Karl stated that the State Board had ample opportunity to have information brought to them from the EMC, including a request for additional documentation around the research. Karl indicated that Recommendation 3.2, in the current format, would not receive Board consideration.

Sharolyn stated that Board member Wakefield felt that the language of Recommendation 3.1, as written, did not include enough information about how to make it happen in Nevada. Sharolyn stated there are other states that have mandated an ELAD endorsement. Another data point is teacher exposure and the impact of student learning and outcomes. Sharolyn asked the TESL Subcommittee to schedule one or two meetings to discuss issues, and gather data for the next EMC meeting on March 29, so that EMC could bring a strong presentation to the State Board of Education meeting on April 28. Rachel stated there must be five subcommittee members and that Tracy Spies' term had expired. Sharolyn requested to replace Tracy. Three members are required for a quorum.

Lorna stated that the larger number of long term ELs are in middle and high schools. Lorna asked the question why not start at the secondary level and move back to elementary where structures and strategies are more natural for the teachers. Sharolyn replied that the four courses are already there at the elementary level. The secondary level is more complicated and she explained in more detail.

8. **EMC Annual Report**

Karl stated there should be a Motion to Approve the Report from the EMC, as submitted, or, a Motion from the EMC to Approve the Report with any revisions that might be needed.

Blakely described the Annual Status Report which provides the content of work of the EMC over the last year. It contains the member terms with dates, organization the members represent, appointment of the members, and specific charges and duties. The Report is sent to the Governor, the State Board and the Legislative Committee on Education.

Magdalena made the Motion to Approve the Report, as written. Nancy Brune seconded the Motion to Approve the Report. The Motion carried and the Report was approved.

9. **EMC Appointments and Council Rosters**

Sharolyn stated to ensure adequate Council membership and support, in light of the expiration of some of the EMC position terms and some that will expire in June 2016, that she draft a letter to the Governor's Office to request assistance in encouraging the nominating organizations to follow through with their responsibility of nominations for appointment of to the English Mastery Council.

On behalf of the English Mastery Council, Maija Talso made a Motion to request Chair Durodola write a letter to the Governor, requesting full appointment of the English Mastery Council. Rachel seconded the Motion. All in favor. Chair Durodola will draft a letter to the Governor.

10. **Proposed Future EMC Meeting Dates and Agenda Items**

Chair Sharolyn Durodola announced the two remaining proposed EMC meeting dates:

- Tuesday, March 29, 2016
- Monday, May 23, 2016

11. **District EL Policy Review Process (continuation)**

Karl asked for thoughts and recommendations regarding the Policy and approach to reviewing the Policy. He reviewed some of the comments previously made earlier in the meeting. Further, a lengthy discussion took place on steps and needs for the Policy process. There were questions and comments on possible formation of subcommittees to review the process. There was comment that this approach would be labor intensive.

Karl stated the deadline for the submission of the district EL Policy is not a statutorily defined date. It was determined as a reasonable date that would allow the districts to complete the process and facilitate the work of the EMC. Karl asked Greg Ott, considering that the EMC no longer has full quorum, is it allowable that the members of the EMC who are still present could communicate their advice or recommendation to the State Board without ability to take formal action as an EMC? Greg replied there is nothing preventing an individual member from expressing an opinion or endorsement of a policy. It would be the opinion of the individual, not of the EMC. Greg stated that would be permissible. Sharolyn recommended that the Department of Education allow the districts to submit proposals in draft form for their school district policies.

Magdalena recommended an item be placed on the next meeting Agenda to vote on the implementation process. Maija Talso also recommended that proposals in draft form be submitted in lieu of approved policies.

12. **Public Comment #2**

There were no public comments in Elko, Carson City, or Las Vegas.

13. **Adjournment**

English Mastery Council Chair, Sharolyn Pollard-Durodola, adjourned the meeting at 12:05 P.M.